

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of placing a tubular sleeve in a well bore, the method comprising:
 - a) providing a carrier configured to hold a tubular sleeve comprising a plurality of fibers in a braided arrangement;
 - b) positioning the tubular sleeve within an interior of the carrier; and
 - c) moving the carrier into the well bore.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein an upper end of the carrier is attached to a lower end of a conveyance string.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the conveyance string is tubing.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the conveyance string is wireline.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising positioning the carrier proximate a bottom of the well bore by lowering the carrier in the well bore.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein an anchor is attached to a base of the sleeve.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising securing the anchor to the ground at the bottom of the well bore.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising positioning the carrier between a lower end of the well bore and an upper end of the well bore.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein extending arms are attached to a base of the sleeve.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising securing the extending arms to a sidewall of the well bore.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the sleeve is in a folded position within the interior of the carrier.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising moving the carrier toward a top of the well bore such that the sleeve at least partially unfolds, thereby positioning the sleeve at a predetermined location.
13. The method of claim 1, further comprising expanding the sleeve.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein said expanding comprises pressurizing a fluid against an interior wall of the sleeve.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the fluid comprises at least one of a curable resin, a curing agent, or a drilling fluid.
16. The method of claim 13 wherein said expanding comprises positioning an inflatable member within the sleeve and inflating the member.
17. The method of claim 13 wherein said expanding comprises moving a mandrel through the sleeve.
18. The method of claim 1, further comprising treating the sleeve with a curable resin before step (b).
19. The method of claim 1, further comprising treating the sleeve with a curable resin after step (b).
20. The method of claim 18 wherein the curable resin comprise at least one of an acid curable resin, an epoxide resin, a partially polymerized resin capable of being cured by heating, and monomers capable of being cured by azo or peroxide initiators and heating.
21. The method of claim 18, further comprising partially curing the curable resin before step (b).
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising substantially curing the curable resin after step (b).

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said substantially curing comprises injecting a curing agent into the sleeve.
24. The method of claim 22 wherein said substantially curing comprises heating the sleeve.
25. The method of claim 1, further comprising releasing the sleeve from the carrier and removing the carrier from the well bore.
26. The method of claim 24, further comprising reloading the carrier with another sleeve.
27. The method of claim 25, further comprising passing a drill bit through the sleeve and drilling the well bore a distance below the sleeve.
28. The method of claim 21 wherein said curing the resin causes the sleeve to become substantially impermeable.
29. A system for placing a tubular sleeve in a well bore, the system comprising:
 - a tubular sleeve comprising a plurality of fibers in a braided arrangement; and
 - a carrier configured to hold the tubular sleeve within its interior.
30. The system of claim 29 wherein the fibers comprise at least one of glass, aramid, nylon, carbon, polyester, and polypropylene.
31. The system of claim 29 wherein the carrier comprises steel.
32. The system of claim 29 wherein the sleeve is disposed within the interior of the carrier.
33. The system of claim 32 wherein the sleeve is detachably attached to the carrier.
34. The system of claim 29, further comprising a conveyance string attached to the carrier for lowering the carrier into the well bore.
35. The system of claim 29, further comprising at least one anchor or extending arm attached to the sleeve for securing the sleeve to the well bore.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein the at least one anchor or extending arm comprises at least one of aluminum, steel, a composite material, and a plastic.
37. The system of claim 32 wherein the sleeve is in an undeployed state within the interior of the carrier.
38. The system of claim 37 wherein the sleeve is folded.
39. The system of claim 37 wherein the sleeve is substantially flexible and is configured for expansion upon deployment.
40. The system of claim 29, further comprising an inflatable member disposed inside the sleeve for expanding the sleeve.
41. The system of claim 29, further comprising a curable resin disposed on the sleeve.
42. The system of claim 41 wherein the curable resin comprises at least one of an acid curable resin, an epoxide resin, a partially polymerized resin capable of being cured by heating, and monomers capable of being cured by azo or peroxide initiators and heating.
43. The system of claim 29 wherein the carrier is sized to fit within a well bore.
44. The system of claim 29 wherein the carrier is substantially cylindrical in shape.
45. The system of claim 33 wherein the carrier comprises a release mechanism for releasing the sleeve.
46. A method of loading a flexible sleeve in a carrier, comprising positioning the sleeve in an undeployed state within an interior of the carrier.
47. The method of claim 45, further comprising conveying the carrier downhole.
48. The method of claim 46, further comprising deploying the sleeve.